

SUFFERER'S ARMY

Statement Made by Commissary Gallagher to War Investigators.

NOT ENOUGH LIGHTERS.

Couldn't Land Supplies, and Therefore the Soldiers Suffered.

TWO INCOMPETENT OFFICERS.

Captain Ryan and Captain Lord, Appointed by the President from Civil Life, Reported to Have Been Inefficient.

Washington, Oct. 10.—The commission to investigate the war department heard the testimony of Major Hugh J. Gallagher, Depot Commissary of Subsistence with General Shafter's army. Major Gallagher testified that the army ration was not suitable for soldiers fighting in Cuba. He admitted that for two days the troops were without sugar or coffee, that there was an insufficient supply of lighters to land food, but that conditions had existed as they were for six or eight days longer the army would have been forced to fall back, and that two of the three officers appointed by the President from civil life and serving under his direction were inefficient. He named them; they were Captain Ryan, appointed from Kansas, and Captain Lord, appointed from New York.

In his testimony concerning Montauk, the witness said that as a general proposition more than one means of transportation should be used to supply a great camp like that at Camp Wikoff. He did not know who made the contract which limited the transportation facilities to a single railroad there, but said he thought it would have been better had greater latitude been allowed in the matter of transportation by use of available steamers for communicating with New London, Boston and other ports.

Major Gallagher's Testimony.

In answer to questions Major Gallagher testified that there was plenty of provisions always on hand for Shafter's army, but that on the days of July 5 and 6 the staff was very heavy at Siboney, and lighters could not land supplies. The reasons were obliged to go to Daiquiri, during those two days the department could not supply coffee and sugar. With this exception the witness did not think the army suffered. Colonel Denby asked at this point:

"Do you consider that sufficient preparation was made for the landing of the army?"

The witness hesitated, as if thinking well over this question, and then replied: "If we were to start again we would make more preparation than we know how and what to do in the future."

Colonel Denby—Please state whether you ought to have had more lighters, and whether you did not get enough commissary supplies ashore to supply that army.

The witness—There were a few cases where we did not get a full supply, but that was due to the impossibility of getting the rationals. If you wish to ask me if we should have had more lighters, I will answer yes, we should have had more.

Colonel Denby—Taking into consideration the fact that you did not have enough lighters to land the stuff rapidly, state whether anybody suffered or not.

The witness—In the cases I mentioned men would certainly suffer if they did not have coffee and sugar for two days.

Doesn't Denby—Who is to blame for that? The witness—I cannot say that anybody is to blame.

Major Gallagher then remained silent a moment, and continued: "God is to blame for it. The storm off Siboney compelled us to go seven or eight miles further to get things. We did not have things to give the men."

General McCook—Suppose that surf had lasted seven days instead of two days, what would have been the effect?

The witness—The suffering would have been so great that perhaps we would have been obliged to fall back.

Colonel Denby—Your business would have been to furnish sufficient lighters to unload these transports?

The witness—It would have been the business of the quartermaster's department.

Colonel Denby—Would it have been the business of General Shafter or the quartermaster?

The witness—The quartermaster, and the quartermaster is under orders of the commanding general.

He was asked regarding the character of the civilian appointees under him. He said that he had five of these civilian appointees and three of them were efficient, two of them were not efficient. They lacked interest in their duties.

The witness—They never showed an interest in it.

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The other witnesses before the committee were Captain Colver, Troop Captain United States Cavalry, and Dr. James H. Hysell, Chief Surgeon, Second Division, United States Army, who testified that Captain Thomas, Captain Colver had but one criticism to make, and that was that the camp at Camp Thomas was pitched in the woods instead of on the beach.

Dr. Hysell's most important testimony was concerning the water supply. In answer to a question of Dr. Connor, if they had plenty of water, Dr. Hysell said: "No sir, we did not. I learned that there was great sickness in the Fifth Army Corps, and I made no effort to get the pipe and serving water from the river into my division. I thought I would escape having typhoid fever if I kept that water out of my division. We handled our drinking water a distance of five miles. I did not get the water from the river, but from a spring running to the camp because I was afraid of it."

Dr. Hysell further testified that typhoid fever was brought to Chickamauga by the troops and that its increase was due to the improper covering of sinks, and to the fact that the water was contaminated by the filth of flies. Commanding officers of regiments, Dr. Hysell said, were responsible for the condition of the sinks.

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Stipped of its legal verbiage, the introductory paragraph in Fitzsimmons's complaint, which was drawn by the law firm of Boess & Carhart, recites how he entered the restaurant of the Gilsey House on the afternoon of October 7, and ordered one of "certain designated articles of food."

He avers that he gave the order to a waiter, that it was not served in a reasonable time, and that he made appeal to the head waiter.

This functionary, according to the complaint, refused to serve the champion with a bowl of soup, "publicly, in the hearing of many persons, and in a loud and insulting tone, and with contumacious and insolent behavior, and in a manner calculated to injure the plaintiff in his reputation as a boxer and as a person of high social standing."

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